

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: USG LABOR PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA

REFS: A) MEXICO 0229 '77; B) MEXICO STATE 1581 '77; C) AIDTO

A-583 11/9/76

1. MEXICO HAS HAD NO AIFLD PROGRAM FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. AN UNOFFICIAL PRESENCE IS HOWEVER MAINTAINED IN THE PERSON OF JOSE ESTRADA, THE ORIT TREASURER WHOSE SALARY AND MAINTENANCE BENEFITS ARE FUNDED BY AIFLD/WASHINGTON.

2. WHILE WE FORESEE NO ADVANTAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AIFLD PROGRAM SUCH AS EXISTS IN OTHER LA COUNTRIES, FUTURE EVENTS MIGHT OPEN SOME CONSIDERATION OF THE DESIRABILITY FOR A LIMITED BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIFLD AND THE MAJOR MEXICAN LABOR CONFEDERATION, THE CT. THIS LATTER ORGANIZATION HAS RECENTLY PURCHASED THE ORIT LABOR EDUCATION FACILITY AT CUERNAVACA AND HAS UNOFFICIALLY INDICATED THEY NEED AND WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE IN REORGANIZING IT AS A MAJOR CENTER FOR UPPER LEVEL EDUCATION FOR THEIR AFFILIATES' LEADERSHIP. EVER IF OUR MOST OPTIMISTIC HOPES FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ORIT MATERIALIZE, THIS ORGANIZATION WILL BE UNABLE, FOR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS TO EXTEND THIS ASSISTANCE TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CTM. WE WILL RESERVE OUR OPINION ON THIS POSSIBILITY FOR LATER MORE APPROPRIATE TIME. WE FEEL IT IS TIMELY TO MENTION THIS POSSIBILITY IN PREFACE OF OUR REMARKS TO THE SUBJECT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ALEXANDER-HAMMOND REPORT.

3. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS ARE KEYED TO THE AA/LA ACTION

PAPER ON THE ALEXANDER/HAMMOND REPORT. "APPROVED"
(OR "DISAPPROVED") INDICATES OUR POSITION WITH REGARD
TO AID/W POSITION AND NOT OF THE ALEXANDER/HAMMOND
RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1) APPROVED.

(2) APPROVED.

(3) APPROVED - WITHOUT QUESTION.

(4) APPROVED - WE BELIEVE THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF
AIFLD HAS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AND
THAT THEY HAVE DEVELOPED (FOR THE MOST PART) A CORPS OF
HIGHLY QUALIFIED U.S. PERSONNEL SERVING IN THE FIELD. THE
PRESENT INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT PROGRAMS OFFER AN
ADEQUATE BALANCE TO THE TOTAL EFFORT. WE SEE NO
ALTERNATIVE TO AN AIFLD STEWARDSHIP OF THE LA LABOR EFFORT.

(4B) APPROVED.

(6) APPROVED. WE VIGOROUSLY AGREE THAT USG FUNDS
SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

(7A) APPROVED.

(7B) (1.) APPROVED.

(7B) (2.) APPROVED.

(7E) APPROVED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MATTER OF AIFLD
PRIVILEGES SHOULD BE SETTLED BETWEEN AIFLD AND THE
RESPECTIVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY
BASIS. IF THE GRANTING OF THESE PRIVILEGES IN A
PARTICULAR COUNTRY CAUSES REAL HANDICAPS TOWARD THE
SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM, THEY SHOULD BE
WITHHELD; OTHERWISE THEY SHOULD BE EXTENDED.

(8) APPROVED.

(10) APPROVED.

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(12) APPROVED. ALTHOUGH EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION IN AIFLD
HAS BEEN A FOCAL POINT OF ATTACK FROM AMONG AIFLD'S NATURAL
ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS, WE FEEL REASONABLY SURE THE ATTACKS
WOULD CONTINUE EVEN IF EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION WAS ELIMINATED.
SINCE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT ADVANTAGES EMPLOYERS BRING TO
THE RELATIONSHIP, WE ARE IN A POOR POSITION TO EVALUATE
WHETHER THEIR PRESENCE IS WORTH WEATHERING THE CRITICISM.
BASICALLY THIS IS A MATTER WHICH AIFLD MUST DECIDE.

(16) WE CAN NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE. IT SEEMS TO
US THAT THE TOTAL AIFLD FUNDING LEVEL SHOULD BE DETERMINED
BY TALLING THE DESIRABLE OR NEEDED LEVEL OF THE COMPONENT
COUNTRY PROGRAMS. ANNUALLY INCREASING OPERATING COSTS
WOULD INDICATE SOME MODEST INCREASE IF PROGRAMING LEVELS
ARE MAINTAINED.

(19) WE ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE IAF
OPERATION TO FORM AN INTELLIGENT OPINION.

(20) WE WOULD AGREE THAT A REVITALIZED ORIT IS DESIRABLE
AND COULD MOST PROBABLY EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE FUNDS IN
ADDITION TO THOSE GENERATED THROUGH AFFILIATE PER-

CAPITA DUES; BUT WOULD PREFER TO RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON THIS ONE UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE ASSISTANCE. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH IS IDENTIFIABLE AS USG WOULD SUBJECT THE ORGANIZATION TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM AND POSSIBLY JEOPORDIZE THEIR RECINCARNATION. WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THIS ASSISTANCE COME FROM THE AFL-CIO OR OTHER PRIVATE SOURCES.

WE AGREE WITH THE AID/W POSITION ON "NON-ISSUES"

(7C), (9), (11) AND (15).

WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH STATEMENTS UNDER "ISSUES FOR DECISION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS", BUT WOULD SUGGEST THAT EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN NUMBER 17 BE CONFINED TO THE "INTERESTED LEADERS" OF CLAT ORGANIZATION AND PRECLUDE ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGMENTS WITH CLAT OR THEIR AFFILIATES. THOMPSON

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